

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 039152

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. FEBRUARY 20 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED UPI INTERVIEW
(DATELINED NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 19) WITH LAWYER DONOVAN.
TEXT HAS BEEN SENT POSTS BY USIA.

2. STORY CARRIES THE HEADLINE "AMERICANS REPORTED ILL"
AND CLAIMS THAT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION OF HARCOS
AND FLETCHER HAS "SERIOUSLY WORSENER". ARTICLE IS
MISLEADING SINCE IT IS BASED ON AN INTERVIEW WITH DONOVAN
IN WHICH SHE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THEIR HEALTH AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION HAD "CONSIDERABLY DETERIORATED"
SINCE SHE SAW THEM A YEAR AGO. DONOVAN DOES NOT ASSERT
THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY RECENT (I.E. POST-HUNGER STRIKE)
DETERIORATION IN HEALTH.

3. IN ANTICIPATION OF QUESTIONS ON CONDITION OF
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HARCOS/FLETCHER, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MOST RECENT DATE
CONSUL O'NEILL VISITED THEM AND WHAT HIS OBSERVATIONS
WERE ON THEIR HEALTH. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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